

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indonesia

DATE DISTR. 6 Dec. 1951

SUBJECT Former Japanese Fortifications on the West Coast  
of Atjeh and Sabang Island

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE 25X1C  
ACQUIRED

REFERENCE COPY

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF 25X1A  
INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Between 500 and 1,000 wartime Japanese aerial bombs are lying in a coconut plantation within 200 meters of the airfield at Lhoknga (the airfield for Kotaradja). For a distance of approximately 30 km from Kotaradja south along the coast road to Meulaboh the same type bombs are lying on each side of the road at alternate intervals of 20 meters. The bombs are intact except for the absence of detonators. They are of the picric acid type which has probably not deteriorated, and are probably still serviceable. Application of heat to this type of bomb will explode it without the use of a detonator. The largest bombs are 500 pounds.
2. At Gla Groete (86 km south of Kotaradja on the coast road to Meulaboh) there are several Japanese pillboxes on the road side at an elevation of approximately 250 meters above the beach commanding an unrestricted view of the beach. This point is the highest elevation on the Kotaradja-Meulaboh road. The pillboxes are overgrown but are believed to still be in excellent condition. The road is cut through a high rock formation at this point, and use of explosives would create a rock fall that would render the road impassable.
3. In 1946 the beach at Sabang Island (off the northern tip of Atjeh) was also lined with aerial bombs left by the Japanese. It is believed that 75 percent of the bombs are still there. The Japanese trenches, gun emplacements and fortifications which were cut out of rock and which command the beach were of expert construction. It is believed that these defenses are now overgrown but could quickly be put into use again.

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